

***City of Burien***

**BURIEN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

June 10, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Shared Conference Room

**MINUTES**

**Planning Commission Members Present:**

Janet Shull, Stacie Grage, Rebecca McInteer, Joe Fitzgibbon, Edward Bohn

**Absent:** Jim Clingan

**Others Present:**

David Johanson, senior planner; Scott Greenberg, Community Development Department director

**Roll Call**

Chair Janet Shull called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. At the call of the roll, all commissioners were present except Commissioners Clingan and McInteer. Commissioner McInteer arrived at 7:13 p.m.

**Agenda Confirmation**

Chair Shull asked to add an item to the agenda; she wanted to share communication she's had about an ad hoc committee on the new Community Center that she's been appointed to and she wanted to ask the commissioners for informal input as to whether they would like to have future input on the annexation issue. Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Bohn. Second was by Commissioner Grage and the motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that staff should add a permanent agenda item, "Planning Commissioners' Report," to accommodate communications such as those just mentioned.

**Public Comment**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

A. May 13, 2008

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Grage. Second was by Commissioner Fitzgibbon and the motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

Senior Planner David Johanson introduced the agenda item, which is to obtain public comment on establishment of the proposed 2008 Comprehensive Plan amendment docket. The commission will be asked at its next meeting for a formal recommendation to the City Council regarding establishment of the docket.

Mr. Johanson reviewed the background, key dates and activities that have taken place to this point, as noted in his memo to the commissioners in their agenda packet. He reminded the commissioners that the

docket is only a list of potential amendments that will be studied to determine if Comprehensive Plan amendments are necessary.

He quickly reviewed each item. Staff is recommending that each item be included on the docket. The items are:

- 2008-1 Comprehensive Plan Map amendment changing the designation of three parcels that are now a park/stormwater facility from Moderate Density Residential Neighborhood to Parks/Schools/Recreation/Open Space.
- 2008-2 A placeholder for Economic Development Element goal and/or policy amendments potentially coming out of a review of the Economic Development Element by the City's Business and Economic Development Partnership.
- 2008-3 Commute Trip Reduction goal and/or policy amendments to comply with the state-mandated commute trip reduction requirements.
- 2008-4 Low Impact Development goal and/or policy amendments.
- 2008-5 A placeholder for Sustainability Policy Amendments goal and/or policy amendments.
- 2008-6 A placeholder for Traffic Impact Fee goal and/or policy amendments
- 2008-7 Comprehensive Plan map amendment/rezone request changing the designation of two portions of the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center parcel from Special Planning Area 2 to High-Density Multi-Family Neighborhood and Moderate Density Single-Family Neighborhood and rezoning from SPA-2 to RS-7,200 and RM-18.
- 2008-8 A placeholder for Transit Policy Enhancements.

Commissioner Bohn informed the chair that he may have a possible conflict of interest in that his wife is assistant to the CEO of the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center. Chair Shull asked staff to look into the legal issues of that and give feedback to the commissioners at a later time.

Commissioner Bohn noted that he thought the Ruth Dykeman Children's Center is probably the fourth or fifth major employer in the city, with about 100 full-time and about 40 part-time employees, although it is not listed as such in the Comprehensive Plan, perhaps because it is a nonprofit agency.

### **Old Business**

Scott Greenberg introduced the topic of sustainability and the 2007 report prepared by U.W.'s Evans School of Public Affairs graduate student Emily Newcomer on sustainability and Burien. He explained that the City Council, after reviewing the report, has delegated it to the Planning Commission to study and make recommendations to the City Council on a sustainability framework for Burien.

He told the commissioners that their first task is to define sustainability and in defining it, think about what the City's goals and policies would be like under that definition. At the end of the process, the Commission will have a package of recommendations to forward to the City Council.

Mr. Greenberg read to the commissioners, as an example, the definition of sustainability for Burien that Ms. Newcomer recommended:

*Sustainability is development that improves the long-term health of the human, financial and ecological systems found within Burien.*

He emphasized, however, that rather than simply accepting that definition the commission should examine what that would mean to the City, and possibly come up with its own definition. He cited concepts that other entities have used for definitions.

Mr. Greenberg pointed out that the City has signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, but cautioned that sustainability isn't simply about climate.

Chair Shull asked staff to provide a timeline for this project and how the Planning Commission's work will interact with the City staff committee on sustainability. The commissioners then discussed sustainability and ideas for determining a definition for Burien.

Chair Shull shared that the ad hoc committee on the new Community Center, on which she represents the Planning Commission, has decided not to go forward at this time with a bond measure before the voters to finance the new Community Center. The committee is now working on an interim plan for the Community Center, although the long-term goal is still to have a new Community Center.

She then asked the Commissioners if they want to have any role or input regarding the potential annexation of North Highline. She said she had learned that the Burien Business and Economic Development Partnership (BEDP) had forwarded a recommendation to the City Council about annexation, but the Planning Commission had not; she found out the BEDP was not formally asked to do so but did so on its own. Consensus was to let the City Council know the commission would like to provide input on annexation when opportunities arise.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Johanson gave a brief summary of the Shoreline Master Program update open house and said the Shoreline Advisory Committee would be meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The commission will be involved further along in the process.

He noted that Highline Medical Center soon will begin on its new Birch wing. He said the Town Square developer believes the retail portion of Parcel 1 (the first phase) will open in December. Mr. Johanson reported that the City Council is still deliberating on the process to fill the vacant Planning Commission position.

Mr. Greenberg updated the commissioners on plans to have a joint meeting of the Burien, Normandy Park and SeaTac planning commissions; it probably won't happen until this fall. He noted that the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Emerald Pointe on the Sound was issued today; it is available for free on the City's website.

Lastly, he distributed to the commissioners the beginning draft of the 2009 work program for Community Development and explained how the City is working on changing its budgeting process by developing the work program first and then determining how to fund it.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grage. Second was by Commissioner McInteer and the motion carried unanimously.

Chair Shull adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Janet Shull, chair  
Planning Commission